

BPL will only add to the current problems local power companies are having with interference complaints and mitigation. I cannot listen to some local 50kW AM stations as I drive along my local highway due to interference that comes from poor maintenance of existing overhead lines. Calls requesting investigation are acted upon with very low priority if they are acted upon at all.

I have spent a lot of money and time becoming prepared to assist in emergency communications after the next natural disaster, or even one that is not natural. I am very close to the epicenter of the 1989 7.0 earthquake in the SF bay area. At that time, amateur radio operators assisted me in dealing with important issues by using both HF and VHF frequencies. I was unprepared to assist myself at that time but am ready to serve the public next time. I do not want to be hindered from giving or receiving communications help next time and it is clear that the potential for interference to licensed communications is a near certainty with BPL.

Please disallow further implementation of this redundant service for internet connections. Everyone is starry eyed now but will resist dealing with the problem once service begins as cost control measures in these businesses will dictate their policy when faced with the need to deal with unintended interference. Since BPL will be in a highly competitive marketplace, cost will be a dominant factor in their business plans. Ever try to call your dental insurance company and get to talk to somebody? Cost control in action and when this 'service' function goes off shore for more cost savings, the problem will be exacerbated.

With regards,

Al Toothaker